

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14 Canceled.

15. (currently amended): A processor system comprising a plurality of resource nodes connected to a network, a plurality of control nodes connected to the network, and a plurality of controllers, wherein

each of the resource nodes includes a resource holding unit for holding a plurality of resources and a resource information holding unit for managing the states of the resources, each state indicating that the corresponding resource is in a free or locked state,

each of the control nodes includes a plurality of control devices for issuing a plurality of requests associated with resources, each control node, including the control devices which have issued requests, transferring the requests to the corresponding controller, and wherein

at least one controller, which has received the requests, issues a request message to each of resource nodes which hold target resources associated with the requests,

each resource node which has received the request message checks that the target resource is in the free state, and if the target resource is in the free state, changes the state of the target resource to the locked state, and issues a permission message to the at least one controller,

the at least one controller, which has received the permission message, checks that all of permission messages associated with other requests preceding the corresponding request received by the at least one controller have already been received and issues an update message to the resource node which holds the target resource associated with the corresponding request, and

the resource node which has received the update message changes the state of the target resource to the free state.

16. (currently amended): The processor system according to claim 15, wherein the controllers are included in the control nodes, respectively, and

the controller in each control node includes a selector for arranging the requests issued by the control devices in the control node.

17. (currently amended): The processor system according to claim 15, wherein the controllers are connected to the network, and

each control node includes a selector for arranging the requests issued by the control devices in the control node.

18. (currently amended): The processor system according to claim 15, wherein the controllers are included in the resource nodes, respectively, and

each control node includes a selector for arranging the requests issued by the control devices in the control node.

19. (currently amended): The processor system according to claim 15, wherein
the resource nodes and the control nodes are combined into a plurality of nodes,
respectively, and

each node includes a selector for arranging the requests issued by the control devices in
the node.

20. (currently amended) The processor system according to any one of claim 15, wherein
each controller includes a release processing unit,

each resource node which has received the request message issues a release-request
message to the at least one controller when the target resource is in the locked state,

the release processing unit in the at least one controller starts a release process in
response to the received release-request message,

the release process includes:

~~a step of~~ issuing a request message for the request corresponding to the release-request
message;

~~a step of~~ stopping accepting of a new request; and

~~a step of~~ issuing a release message to each of resource nodes which hold target resources
associated with requests following the corresponding request when permission messages
associated with the following requests have already been received or are received during the
release process,

the release processing unit terminates the release process when receiving a permission message corresponding to the release-request message, and

the resource node which has received the release message changes the state of the target resource to the free state.

21. (currently amended): The processor system according to any one of claim 15, wherein

each state managed by the resource information holding unit includes an interruptible locked state and a request-locked state,

the at least one controller, which has received the request, issues a weak request message when all of permission messages associated with other requests preceding the request received by the at least one controller have not yet been received,

the resource node which has received the weak request message checks that the target resource is in the free state, changes the state of the target resource to the interruptible locked state, and issues a permission message to the at least one controller,

the interruptible locked state includes information to specify the at least one controller,

the resource node which has received the request message issues an inhibition message to the at least one controller when the target resource is in the locked state,

the resource node which has received the weak request message issues an inhibition message to the at least one controller when the target resource is in the locked state or the interruptible locked state,

the at least one controller which has received the inhibition message issues, for the request corresponding to the inhibition message, a request message when all of permission messages associated with other requests preceding the request have already been received, or issues a weak request message when all of the permission messages have not yet been received,

when the target resource is in the interruptible locked state, the resource node which has received the request message changes the state of the target resource to the request-locked state and then outputs a retry-request message to a controller designated by the information included in the interruptible locked state,

the controller which has received the retry-request message executes a retry process,

the retry process includes:

~~a step of~~ specifying a request associated with the target resource;

~~a step of~~ issuing a release message to the resource node which holds the target resource associated with the specified request; and

~~a step of~~ changing the state of the specified request to a state in which a permission message associated therewith has not yet been received when an update message has not yet been issued in response to the specified request, and issuing a request message when all of permission messages associated with other requests preceding the specified request received by the controller have already been received, or issuing a weak request message when all of the permission messages have not yet been received, and

the resource node which has received the release message changes the state of the target resource to the locked state and issues a permission message to the at least one controller.

22. (currently amended): A method for processing access, the method being applied to a processor system including a plurality of resource nodes connected to a network, a plurality of control nodes connected to the network, and a plurality of controllers, each of the resource nodes including a resource holding unit for holding a plurality of resources and a resource information holding unit for managing the states of the resources, each state indicating that the corresponding resource is in a free or locked state, each of the control nodes including a plurality of control devices for issuing a plurality of requests associated with resources, wherein:

the control device transfers requests to at least one corresponding controller;

the at least one controller issues, in response to the request, a request message to each resource node which holds the target resource associated with the corresponding request,

the resource node checks, in response to the request message, whether the target resource is in the free state, and if the target resource is in the free state, changes the state of the target resource to the locked state, and issues a permission message to the at least one controller;

the at least one controller checks, in response to the permission message, whether all of permission messages associated with other requests preceding the corresponding request received by the at least one controller have already been received and issues an update message to the resource node which holds the target resource associated with the corresponding request; and

the resource node changes, in response to the update message, the state of the target resource to the free state.

23. (currently amended): The method for processing access according to claim 922, further comprising the step of:

arranging the requests issued by the control devices in each control node.

24. (currently amended): The method for processing access according to claim 229, further comprising the steps of:

combining the resource nodes and the control nodes into a plurality of nodes, respectively; and

arranging the requests issued by the control devices in each node.

25. (currently amended): The method for processing access according to claim 229, further comprising the steps of:

in response to the request message to the resource node, issuing a release-request message to the at least one controller when the state of the target resource is in the locked state; and

starting a release process in the at least one controller which has received the release-request message, wherein

the release process includes the substeps of:

issuing a request message to the request corresponding to the release-request message;

stopping accepting of a new request; and

issuing a release message to each of resource nodes which hold target resources associated with requests following the corresponding request when permission messages associated with the following requests have already been received or are received during the release process, and

the method further includes the step of terminating the release process in the at least one controller which has received a permission message sent in response to the request corresponding to the release-request message; and

changing, in response to the release message to the resource node, the state of the target resource to the free state.

26. (currently amended): The method for processing access according to claim 229, wherein

each state managed by the resource information holding unit includes an interruptible locked state and a request-locked state,

the method further comprises the steps of:

in response to the request, issuing, by the at least one controller, a weak request message when all of permission messages associated with other requests preceding the corresponding request have not yet been received; and

in response to the weak request message, checking, by the resource node, whether the target resource is in the free state, changing the state of the target resource to the interruptible locked state, and issuing a permission message to the at least one controller,

the interruptible locked state includes information to specify the at least one controller, the method further includes the steps:

in response to the request message, issuing, by the resource node, an inhibition message to the at least one controller when the target resource is in the locked state;

in response to the weak request message, issuing, by the resource node, an inhibition message to the at least one controller when the target resource is in the locked state or the interruptible locked state;

in response to the inhibition message, issuing, by the at least one controller, a request message for the request corresponding to the inhibition message when all of permission messages associated with other requests preceding the corresponding request have already been received, or issuing a weak request message when all of the permission messages have not yet been received;

in response to the request message, changing, by the resource node, the state of the target resource to the request-locked state when the target resource is in the interruptible locked state, and outputting a retry-request message to a controller designated by the information included in the interruptible locked state; and

in response to the retry request message, executing, by the controller, a retry process,

the retry process comprises the substeps of:

specifying a request associated with the target resource;

issuing a release message to the resource node which holds the target resource associated with the specified request; and

changing the state of the specified request to a state in which a permission message associated therewith has not yet been received when an update message has not yet been issued in response to the specified request, and issuing a request message when all of permission messages associated with other requests preceding the specified request received by the controller have already been received, or issuing a weak request message when all of the permission messages have not yet been received, and

the method further includes the step of:

in response to the release message, changing, by the resource node, the state of the target resource to the locked state and issuing a permission message to the at least one controller.